

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~A channel and test plans with a corresponding test plan are implemented in connection with a plurality of nodes that communicate signals. The channel plan has one or more predefined specifications for each of one or more signal channels on each of the nodes.~~ The channel plan enables a monitoring system to, among other things, conduct automatic periodic test plans, comprising tests, on the nodes, based upon the predefined data specified in the channel plan. ~~Each test plan prescribes measurement of at least one signal parameter, pertaining to one or more nodes as a whole and/or to one or more channels contained within the nodes.~~ The monitoring system includes a spectrum analyzer, a switch enabling the spectrum analyzer to interface with the nodes, and a controller controlling the switch and the a spectrum analyzer and a node interface switch. ~~The controller is configured to enable creation of and display the channel plan and test plan, based upon user inputs.~~ Notably, the controller also enables user friendly plan set-up and implements user friendly warning interface logic implementation. The warning interface logic generates a channel percent advisory indicator on the display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated therewith and generates a channel critical alarm indicator on the display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated therewith.